

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2419, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. GERLACH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

At the end of subtitle A of title II, add the following
new section:

**1 SEC. 2113. ADDITIONAL TITLE-HOLDING OPTION UNDER
2 FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM.**

3 (a) ADDITIONAL TITLE-HOLDING OPTION; RESERVA-
4 TION OF FUNDS.—Section 1238I of the Farm Security
5 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3838i) is amended by adding at
6 the end the following new subsection:

7 “(d) OPTION FOR TITLE TO BE HELD BY ELIGIBLE
8 ENTITY.—

9 “(1) RESERVATION OF FUNDS; PURPOSE.—Of
10 the funds made available under section 1241(a)(4)
11 for a fiscal year to carry out this section, the Sec-
12 retary shall reserve not less than 15 percent to make
13 grants to support cooperative efforts by an eligible
14 State agency, a county, and one or more other eligi-
15 ble entities to purchase conservation easements and
16 other interests in eligible land under subsection (a),
17 the title to which will be held by an eligible entity
18 rather than the United States.

1 “(2) COST SHARING.—Notwithstanding sub-
2 section (c)(1), the share of the cost of purchasing a
3 conservation easement or other interest in eligible
4 land borne by the United States under this sub-
5 section shall not exceed 25 percent. The State agen-
6 cy involved in the purchase shall contribute 25 per-
7 cent of the purchase price, the county involved in the
8 purchase shall contribute 25 percent of the purchase
9 price, and the other eligible entities involved in the
10 purchase shall contribute 25 percent of the purchase
11 price.

12 “(3) PROHIBITION ON USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—
13 Federal funds made available under this subsection
14 may not be used by grant recipients for administra-
15 tive purposes.”.

16 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
17 subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2007.